United Nations A/57/95

General Assembly

Distr.: General
25 June 2002
English
Original: Arabic/English/Spanish

Fifty-seventh session
Item 67 (t) of the preliminary list*
General and complete disarmament

Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*

Note by the Secretary-General

Contents

		Page
I.	Introduction	2
II.	Information received from Governments	2
	Dominican Republic	2
	Guatemala	2
	Lebanon	2
	Malaysia	2
	Qatar	3

* A/57/50/Rev.1.

02-44310 (E) 030702 220702

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 56/24 S of 29 November 2001, entitled "Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*", the General Assembly requested all States to inform the Secretary-General of the efforts and measures they had taken on the implementation of the resolution and nuclear disarmament, and requested the Secretary-General to apprise the Assembly of that information at its fifty-seventh session.

2. By a note verbale dated 15 February 2002, all Member States were invited to inform the Secretary-General of the efforts and measures they had taken with regard to the implementation of the resolution and nuclear disarmament.

3. To date, five replies have been received. The text of those replies is reproduced in section II below and any additional replies received from Member States will be issued as addenda to the present report.

II. Information received from Governments

Dominican Republic

[Original: Spanish]
[13 June 2002]

The Dominican Republic is a party to the Tlatelolco Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL) and this commitment reflects a willingness to reject nuclear weapons in the Caribbean and throughout Latin America.

Guatemala

[Original: Spanish]
[5 June 2002]

General Assembly resolutions 56/24 B, 56/24 S and 56/21 are of interest and world-wide importance in the quest for peace and security in a world free from the scourge of war, avoiding the danger of a nuclear war, in the hope that the countries possessing nuclear weapons in their territory will agree to submit their installations to the safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency. For this purpose, the topic of the reasonable balance of forces must be tackled, so that all States in the world can have an acceptable offensive capacity limit.

Lebanon

[Original: English]
[12 April 2002]

Lebanon considers the threat and the use of nuclear weapons and that of the weapons of mass destruction as illegitimate.

Malaysia

[Original: English]
[14 June 2002]

1. On 8 July 1996, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) issued its historic advisory opinion on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*. It was and remains a resolute decision in the field of nuclear disarmament.

2. Malaysia remains committed to the goal of attaining general and complete disarmament in the world, in particular, nuclear disarmament. We are convinced that the only defence against a nuclear catastrophe is the total elimination of nuclear weapons. In that regard, we continued to introduce, for the sixth consecutive year, a resolution on the ICJ advisory opinion on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*. It was adopted by an overwhelming number of votes. The resolution reaffirmed the significant unanimous conclusion that there exists a legal obligation not only to pursue in good faith but also to bring to an early conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects. Malaysia considers the unanimous conclusion by ICJ to be a concrete basis for follow-up actions by Members of the Organization in their determined efforts to rid the world of nuclear weapons. As such, it was consistent with the solemn obligation made by States parties under article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. In that regard, we considered it critical for the States parties to implement the 13-point action plan for the systematic and progressive commitments towards nuclear disarmament.

3. Malaysia continued to work actively with the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) to strengthen the South-East Asia nuclear-weapon-free zone. It is our hope that the zone will create conditions conducive to peace and stability and promote confidence-building in the region. The establishment of the zone is also a reflection of the genuine commitment of the States of South-East Asia towards achieving their common disarmament goals. Malaysia ratified the Bangkok Treaty on 11 October 1996 and is working closely with its ASEAN neighbours in our common pursuit to encourage nuclear-weapon States to accede to the Protocol to the Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone at an early date. Malaysia also strongly supports the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in other regions of the world, particularly in volatile regions, such as the Middle East and South Asia.

4. Malaysia is fundamentally opposed to nuclear tests undertaken by any country and strongly supports the overwhelming international opinion against such tests. Malaysia signed the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty on 23 July 1998 and is taking steps to ratify the Treaty. Malaysia is also cooperating with the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization to host a verification facility (radionuclide monitoring station) in Malaysia in support of the International Monitoring System of the Treaty.

5. In adopting the Millennium Declaration on 8 September 2000, our leaders among other things, resolved "to strive for the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons, and to keep all options open for achieving this aim, including the possibility of convening an international conference to identify ways of eliminating nuclear dangers" (see General Assembly resolution 55/2, para. 9). Malaysia reiterates its commitment to pursue its long-term goal towards the elimination of all nuclear weapons. It underscores the importance of the multilateral approach towards disarmament and, in that context, strongly believes that the search for genuine measures for disarmament and non-proliferation, in particular in the area of nuclear disarmament, remains a high priority on the international agenda. Towards that end, Malaysia believes that every effort should be made to strengthen all existing disarmament and related treaties and agreements.

Qatar

[Original: Arabic]
[17 May 2002]

1. The State of Qatar acceded to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons on 3 April 1989, it signed the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty on 24 September 1996 and ratified it on 3 March 1997, and it is thus in compliance with the relevant international covenants and conventions and United Nations resolutions.

2. The State of Qatar affirms the conclusions of the International Court of Justice concerning the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons.

3. In the context of the efforts made and measures taken in that regard, the State of Qatar:

(a) Participated in the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, held in New York from 11 to 13 November 2001;

(b) Participated in the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, held in New York from 8 to 19 April 2002;

(c) Is participating, in the framework of the League of Arab States, in the efforts to make the Middle East a region free of weapons of mass destruction, primarily nuclear weapons.

4. The State of Qatar affirms that it does not possess nuclear weapons and that it consequently supports all efforts made and all measures taken in this regard.